

21 Aug. 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SUBJECT : Clandestine air transport operations.

1. The Central Intelligence Agency has been closely following the subject of clandestine air transport operations for a period of several months. Partially as a result of intelligence on this subject which had reached Central Intelligence Agency from various sources, an inter-agency Committee on Clandestine Air Transport Operations has been established, under the chairmanship of General Lutes, Director of the Staff, Munitions Board.

2. Central Intelligence Agency was represented at the Committee's initial meeting. It is felt, however, that this Agency's responsibility in the matter is necessarily limited, due to the policy-making nature of the work of the Committee. Furthermore, it now appears that the scope of clandestine air transport operations has broadened to the extent that intelligence on the subject might be treated most effectively as one aspect of the more general subject of arms-smuggling. It is understood that your office has been following the movement of arms and other war material in foreign areas, and your reaction would therefore be appreciated as to the appropriateness of your organization undertaking the primary responsibility for the collection of intelligence dealing with clandestine civil air activities. This arrangement would logically entail direct participation of your organization in the Committee's activities.

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